

The Missing Children's Stamp Committee was formed in January 1996 by Chairman John L. Brezinski, a Herkimer County Legislator, and is a subcommittee of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (Mohawk Valley Branch). In its first year of existence, the Committee received over 35,000 letters of support for their efforts from across the globe, but has run into many hurdles along the way. In the past, the USPS Stamp Advisory Committee has refused to approve such a stamp. Forty-five other sponsors of this legislation and I are calling on the USPS Stamp Advisory Committee to act and issue a stamp to address this critical issue.

According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, 800,000 children are reported missing each year—that's almost 200 each day. According to a recent Zogby International poll of 1,401 adults, more than two-in-three Americans say the USPS Stamp Advisory Committee should issue a stamp raising awareness about the plight of missing and exploited children. The people have spoken and we must respond.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me and the forty five other original cosponsors and show their support for this resolution, the need to raise awareness, and the need to protect our children.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE RETIREMENT OF COLONEL JOHN R. PRIDDY, USMC

**HON. ERNEST J. ISTOOK, JR.**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2003*

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Colonel John R. Priddy who is about to retire and return to private life after more than 28 years of selfless service to our great Nation as a United States Marine. Colonel Priddy graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma, and after completing Marine Corps Officer Candidate School was commissioned a Second Lieutenant.

He has served with numerous operational commands including the Third Marine Division; Second Battalion, Tenth Marines; the First Marine Expeditionary Brigade; and First Battalion (Reinforced), 12th Marines. He has served as a commanding officer three times; first aboard the USS *Midway* (CV-41) where he served as Commanding Officer of the Marine Detachment; next as the Commanding Officer of First Battalion (Reinforced), 12th Marines; and finally as Commanding Officer of the Marine Corps Combined Arms Training Center at Camp Fuji, Japan. Colonel Priddy is also a veteran of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

He has also served with support units at Marine Corps Development and Education Command, Quantico, Virginia; Naval Amphibious School, Little Creek, Virginia; Headquarters, United States Marine Corps; and in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. He is a graduate of the Marine Corps Amphibious Warfare School, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the U.S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies.

Colonel Priddy has served as the Commandant of the Marine Corps Fellow to the Center for Strategic and International Studies,

and as the Chief of Staff of the Marine Corps Quadrennial Defense Review 2001 Group. In August 2001 he assumed duties as Executive Assistant to the Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources, his last active duty position.

Throughout his career as a United States Marine, Colonel Priddy demonstrated uncompromising character, discerning wisdom, and a sincere, profound sense of duty to his country, his Corps, and especially to his Marines and their families. On behalf of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I would like to recognize Colonel Priddy's accomplishments and his devoted service to the Nation. Congratulations to him and his wife Diana, on the completion of a long and distinguished career.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR.  
LAWRENCE S. SYKOFF, ED.D.

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2003*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize an exemplary individual, Dr. Lawrence S. Sykoff. Next month will mark Dr. Sykoff's 10th anniversary as head master of the Ranney School in Tinton Falls, New Jersey. Throughout his lifetime, Dr. Sykoff has demonstrated an aweinspiring commitment to learning and education, and it is for that reason that I ask my colleagues to rise up with me in honoring him.

Dr. Sykoff's love of education was apparent early on. He first qualified for the New York State teaching certification while studying as an undergraduate. After graduating from the Bernard Baruch School of Business Administration in New York, Dr. Sykoff took a job as an accountant but was drawn away from that field by an overwhelming desire to educate. Feeling the call to teach, Dr. Sykoff enrolled at the University of San Diego and earned a Master of Education degree in little over a year. He was later awarded a doctorate from the same university. By that time Dr. Sykoff was nationally known in academic circles for his studies of Middle School education and curriculum development.

In 1993, The Ranney School was in need of a new Head of School to lead it into the twenty-first century. That is when Dr. Sykoff arrived with a vision for Ranney's future that included growth, excellence, prosperity and technological superiority. Since his arrival ten years ago, Dr. Sykoff has been successful at achieving every one of those goals. Under his guidance, Dr. Sykoff transformed the Ranney School into a state of the art learning center that can accommodate nearly 750 students. With modern computer technology, including a distance learning auditorium, and the most up-to-date laboratories and classroom facilities, the Ranney School is better suited to prepare students for a prosperous future both personally and professionally.

In addition to being the Headmaster at the Ranney School, Dr. Sykoff has been an active member of several educational professional organizations including the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, the National Association of Independent Schools, and the New Jersey Association of Independent Schools. He recently served as

Treasurer of NJAIS and continues to serve on its Board of Trustees and Finance Committee. Dr. Sykoff is also past President of the New Jersey Patriot Conference for independent school sports. In addition, he is a member of the Board of the Monmouth County, New Jersey Chapter of the American Cancer Society and a past member of the Board of the Monmouth County Family and Children's Service.

Mr. Speaker, there can be no doubt that Dr. Sykoff has been a consistent advocate of educating our country's youth. I congratulate this remarkable individual for his lasting commitment to learning and ask that my colleagues rise up in recognition of the distinguished Dr. Lawrence S. Sykoff.

THE FCC AND THE TRIENNIAL  
REVIEW

**HON. MIKE PENCE**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2003*

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it's been almost three months since the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted to approve the Triennial Review decision and still no written order has been issued by the Commission.

Mr. Speaker, the Triennial Review offered the FCC the unique opportunity to boost the Nation's economy and not only save jobs—but create jobs as well. The Commission, however, responded to the challenge by issuing a ruling that is contradictory—largely deregulating broadband on one hand while, on the other, continuing the enormous regulatory burden of requiring large local phone companies to lease their lines at below cost rates to competitors. While I applaud the Commission's deregulatory view on broadband, the lack of common sense in requiring one company to literally subsidize its competitors is beyond comprehension.

In conclusion, the FCC has succeeded in creating uncertainty in the marketplace, and uncertainty on Wall Street typically converts to financial disaster. The order that is now being written at the FCC will consist of several hundred pages of regulatory detail. I urge the Commission and its staff to finish its work on the Triennial Review order as quickly as possible so we can begin the tedious legal process of examining these details. Let us not forget that the jobs of thousands of hard-working men and women, and the renewed health of our Nation's economy, are at stake and deserve more than to be held captive by the red tape of the Federal bureaucracy.

HONORING THE 28TH ANNUAL  
CAPITAL PRIDE FESTIVAL

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2003*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 28th Annual Capital Pride Festival, a celebration of and for the National Capital Area's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered communities, their families, and their friends.

Since its beginning in 1975, the Capital Pride Festival has grown from a small block

party to a seven-day series of events. This year, the Pride Parade will be held June 7–8, 2003 and will culminate into a street fair on Pennsylvania Avenue, attended by people of all backgrounds from the District and the region. I have marched in the Pride parades since coming to Congress, and I have seen the parade grow bigger and better. In 2002, I marched with over 120 contingents in the parade. More than 200,000 people attended the street fair in the shadow of the Capitol; and hundreds of vendors and organizers had stalls, booths, and pavilions. The street fair featured over five hours of local entertainers and national headline performers.

The citizens of the District of Columbia and I feel a special affinity to any American who does not share all the rights and privileges enjoyed by most citizens of the United States. I note that it has been eight years since the Majority changed a historic rule and the District of Columbia lost the first vote we ever won on the floor of the House of Representatives, in the Committee of the Whole, the least we were entitled to. I remind this body that our city of 600,000 residents is the only jurisdiction in the United States subject to "Taxation Without Representation."

My Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered constituents feel this denial more acutely than most. Every April 15th they bear all the responsibilities of our democracy yet are denied complete access to its power to redress the injustices that befall Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Americans. Today many are serving their country in Iraq and in the military throughout the world, as District residents have in every United States' war without a vote on war and peace, or any other issue.

Similarly, Congress has not yet protected sexual orientation from discrimination in our country. Despite increasing reports of violence and physical abuse against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Americans, Congress has not enacted protections against hate crimes. Congress must pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). Congress must pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act. Congress must pass the Permanent Partners Immigration Act. Congress must pass the No Taxation Without Representation Act.

In June, we will rejoice in the accomplishments of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered community. We also will remember those who live on only in our hearts and prayers. As we "Celebrate Pride" and reflect, we must continue the fight for full democracy for the District of Columbia and full civil rights for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered people in the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in saluting the 28th Annual Capital Pride Festival; its organizer: Whitman-Walker Clinic, and the sponsors and volunteers whose dedicated and creative energy make the Capital Pride Festival possible.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. On Monday, May 19, 2003, I was unavoidably delayed and thus missed roll-

call votes 192, 193, and 194. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall 192, H. Con. Res. 166; "yea" on rollcall 193, H.R. 1018; and "yea" on rollcall 194, H. Con. Res. 147.

#### RECOGNIZING OPERATION APPRECIATION

### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2003*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Operation Appreciation, a community event sponsored by news talk radio, KMJ580, which will be honoring individual citizens along with a special recognition to the men and women from the Lemoore Naval Air Station who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Operation Appreciation took place on Saturday, May 17, at the California Army National Guard in Fresno, CA. The funds raised will benefit the Veterans Administration.

The individuals being honored provided invaluable service by volunteering their time on-air to keep the citizens of the Central Valley of California informed and up-to-date on the interests and actions of the war. Those recognized were: Col. John Summerville (retired)—Marines, Military Strategist, Victor Davis Hansen, Professor Bruce Thornton from California State University, Fresno, and Brig. General Ed Munger (retired)—Army.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize and applaud Operation Appreciation and the individuals who were honored. I urge my colleagues to join me in extending our appreciation and best wishes to our military, veterans, the honorees, and KMJ580 radio.

#### MECKLENBURG DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

### HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2003*

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, two hundred and twenty-eight years ago on this date, May 20, 1775, the Scotch-Irish residents of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina declared themselves no longer subject to British rule. The day after the battle of Lexington, the Committee of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, which was led by the Polk and Alexander families, drafted a document we refer to today as The Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. In short, this document declared that the citizens of Mecklenburg County had dissolved all ties with Great Britain, and declared itself free and its people independent. One of my staff members, Andy Polk, is a direct descendant of the Polk and Alexander families.

As a member of Congress who represents much of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, I must say that I am very proud to represent an area that is so rich in history and so dedicated to freedom. Ever since May 20, 1775, the citizens of Mecklenburg County have been a freedom loving people who have laid down their lives so that others might experience the greatness of being a free people, who have

the right to govern themselves as they see fit. Many of these men who signed the Mecklenburg Declaration went on to fight and die in the American Revolution to secure the liberties and freedoms we have today.

I am happy to note that in honor of this date the great state of North Carolina has placed May 20, 1775 on its flag and on its seal to honor the men who signed the Mecklenburg Declaration. And to further honor them I ask that their names be placed in the Congressional Record. Such men should not ever be forgotten, lest we forget the freedom we hold so dear.

Signers of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence: General Thomas Polk, Robert Irwin, William Graham, Hezekiah Alexander, John Flennekin, John Queary, Matthew McClure, David Reese, Ephraim Brevard, Adam Alexander, Abraham Alexander, John Phifer, John Foad, Ezra Alexander, Waightstill Avery, John Davidson, Hezekiah J. Balch, James Harris, Richard Barry, Charles Alexander, Benjamin Patton, Richard Harris, Neil Morrison, William Kennon, Henry Downs, Zaccheus Wilson, and John McKnitt Alexander.

#### SPEAKING OUT FOR FAIRNESS IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS

### HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2003*

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concerns about the ongoing delay in the release of telecommunications competition rules. It has been three months since the Federal Communications Commission issued their ruling on the regulation of broadband technology, and we are still waiting for the rules of competition determined by that ruling to be released.

This delay leaves local phone companies and internet service providers without the information they need to make good business decisions. Without knowing the rules under which they must operate, they cannot make determinations about how and where to invest in research and development of new services and new technologies. However, the ultimate losers in this situation are American families and businesses who want and need reliable broadband service.

The telecommunications industry is the backbone of our nation's economy. Not only are hundreds of thousands of America's workers employed in telecommunications, but the services that these companies provide are vital to every business in the United States. Without the ability to quickly and accurately move data, commerce is threatened, and our position in the global marketplace is weakened.

I urge the FCC to act immediately to release the rules for competition. Without these rules, the telecommunications industry cannot move forward with development of the broadband infrastructure that will keep our economy and our nation on the path to recovery and growth.